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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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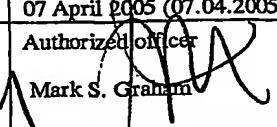
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference CAS-001PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/US04/01946	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 26 January 2004 (26.01.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 24 January 2003 (24.01.2003)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): A63B 59/14 and US Cl.: 473/560		
Applicant CASASANTA JR., JOSEPH G.		
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>6</u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>		
Date of submission of the demand 25 January 2005 (25.01.2005)	Date of completion of this report 07 April 2005 (07.04.2005)	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer  Mark S. Graham Telephone No. 703-308-1148	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/US04/01946

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

- international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
- international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:

pages 1-10 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

pages NONE as originally filed/furnished
 pages* NONE as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages* 11-14/2 received by this Authority on 25 January 2005 (25.01.2005)
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:

pages 1-11 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (Box No. I) (January 2004)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/US04/01946**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-42</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-42</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-42</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and Explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-32, 35-42 an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Egon in view of Kuebler et al. (Kuebler). Egon discloses the claimed device with the exception of using grooves and a covering thereover on the grip. However, as disclosed by Kuebler it is known in the art to use such a construction, (grooves are the areas between the ridges) when forming a grip to better enable the user to provide comfort while still allowing the user to have a feel for the grip. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided such a feature with Egon's grip as well to provide the same benefits.

The bulge at the end of Egon's grip is considered the knob. The finger indentation closest to the shaft may be considered the guard portion.

Claims 33 and 34 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over the prior art as applied in the immediately preceding paragraph and further in view of Chysyk. Egon in view of Kuebler obviates the claimed device with the possible exception of the adhesive fastener. However, as disclosed by Chysyk such is known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have included such with Egon's grip as well to secure it to the shaft.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

US 5,749,798 A (Kuebler et al.) 12 May 1998, See whole document.

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REPLACEMENT SHEET

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CLAIMS

1 1. A grip for attachment to a sport stick having a shaft, one end of the shaft having an
2 opening extending longitudinally into the shaft along a longitudinal axis, the grip
3 comprising:
4 a grip core with one or more grooves formed therein;
5 an elongated grip portion covering one end of the grip core and the one or more
6 grooves, the elongated grip portion having a hilt sized for being grasped by a hand;
7 ~~JFK~~ an insertion portion extending from one end of the grip core, the insertion portion
8 being sized to provide close insertion into the opening at the one end of the shaft, the
9 elongated grip portion extending lengthwise from the one end of the shaft approximately
10 along the longitudinal axis defined by the shaft of the sport stick when the insertion
11 portion is inserted into the opening of the shaft.

1 2. ~~JFK~~ The grip of claim 1, wherein the one or more grooves formed in the grip core extend
2 laterally along a length of the grip core. EK

1 3. The grip of claim 1, wherein the one or more grooves are formed in a knob portion of the
2 grip core. EK

1 4. The grip of claim 1, wherein the one or more grooves are formed in a hilt portion of the
2 grip core. EK

1 5. The grip of claim 1, wherein the hilt has a curved longitudinal surface that conforms to a
2 curvature of a palm of the hand. 11

1 6. The grip of claim 1, wherein the hilt has a diameter that is smaller than a corresponding
2 cross-sectional dimension of the shaft of the sport stick. 11

1 7. The grip of claim 1, wherein the hilt has a diameter that is as large as or larger than a
2 corresponding cross-sectional dimension of the shaft of the sport stick. 11

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1 8. The grip of claim 1, wherein the grip portion includes a guard portion at the one end of
2 the hilt.

1 9. The grip of claim 1, wherein the grip portion includes a knob at one end of the grip
2 portion.

1 10. The grip of claim 1, wherein the hilt has an indentation in a surface for receiving one or
2 more fingers when the palm of the hand presses against the longitudinally curved surface.

1 11. The grip of claim 1, wherein the insertion portion and the grip core are each part of an
2 integral piece of material.

1 12. The grip of claim 1, wherein the insertion portion and the grip portion are constructed of
2 different materials.

1 13. A grip for attachment to a sport stick having a shaft, the shaft having an opening at one
2 end extending longitudinally into the shaft along a longitudinal axis, the grip comprising:
3 a hilt having a longitudinal dimension sized for being grasped by a hand; and
4 means for connecting the hilt to the shaft, the connecting means including a grip
5 core with one or more grooves formed therein and an insertion portion that is inserted
6 into the opening at the one end of the shaft, the hilt extending lengthwise from the one
7 end of the shaft approximately along the longitudinal axis defined by the shaft when the
8 insertion portion is inserted into the opening.

1 14. The grip of claim 13, wherein the one or more grooves formed in the grip core extend
2 laterally along a length of the grip core.

1 15. The grip of claim 13, wherein the one or more grooves are formed in a knob portion of
2 the grip core.

1 16. The grip of claim 13, wherein the one or more grooves are formed in a hilt portion of the
2 grip core.

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1 17. The grip of claim 13, wherin the hilt has a curved longitudinal surface that conforms to a
2 curvature of a palm of the hand. 11

1 18. The grip of claim 13, wherin the hilt has a diameter that is smaller than a corresponding
2 cross-sectional dimension of the shaft of the sport stick. 11

1 19. The grip of claim 13, wherein the hilt has a diameter that is as large as or larger than a
2 corresponding cross-sectional dimension of the shaft of the sport stick. 11

1 20. The grip of claim 13, wherin the hilt has a curved longitudinal surface that conforms to a
2 curvature of a palm of the hand. 11

1 21. The grip of claim 13, further comprising means, disposed at the one end of the hilt, for
2 guarding the hand grasping the hilt. 11

1 22. The grip of claim 13, further comprising means for restricting the hand from sliding off
2 the hilt. 11

1 23. The grip of claim 22, wherein the restricting means includes a knob at the other end of
2 the hilt. 11

1 24. The grip of claim 22, wherein the restricting means includes ridges on a surface of the
2 hilt. 11

1 25. The grip of claim 16, wherein the hilt includes means for receiving one or more fingers
2 when the hand grasps the hilt. 11

1 26. A hockey stick, comprising:
2 a hockey stick shaft having an opening at a first end, the opening extending
3 longitudinally from the first end into the shaft along an longitudinal axis; and
4 a grip having a grip core, an insertion portion and a grip portion, the grip core
5 having one or more grooves formed therein, the insertion portion being inserted into the
6 opening at the first end of the hockey stick shaft, the grip portion covering one end of the

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7 grip core and the one or more grooves and having a hilt with a longitudinal dimension
8 sized for being grasped by a hand of a user, the hilt extending approximately along the
9 longitudinal axis defined by the shaft and having a curved surface along a length of the
10 hilt that conforms to a curvature of a palm of the hand.

1 27. The hockey stick of claim 26, wherein the one or more grooves formed in the grip core
2 extend laterally along a length of the grip core. 11

1 28. The hockey stick of claim 26, wherein the one or more grooves are formed in a knob
2 portion of the grip core. 11

1 29. The hockey stick of claim 26, wherein the one or more grooves are formed in a hilt
2 portion of the grip core. 11

1 30. The hockey stick of claim 26, wherein the hilt has a curved longitudinal surface that
2 conforms to a curvature of a palm of the hand. 11

1 31. The hockey stick of claim 26, wherein the hilt has a diameter that is smaller than a
2 corresponding cross-sectional dimension of the shaft of the hockey stick. 11

1 32. The hockey stick of claim 26, wherein the hilt has a diameter that is as large as or larger
2 than a corresponding cross-sectional dimension of the shaft of the sport stick. 11

1 33. The hockey stick of claim 26, further comprising a fastener securing the insertion portion
2 of the grip to the shaft. 11 2 MC

1 34. The hockey stick of claim 33, wherein the fastener is an adhesive. 11 2 MC

1 35. The hockey stick of claim 26, further comprising a hockey stick blade attached to a
2 second end of the shaft. 11

1 36. The hockey stick of claim 26, wherein a longitudinal length of the hilt is sized for being
2 grasped by a gloved hand. 11

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1 37. The hockey stick of claim 26, wherin a longitudinal length of the hilt is sized for being
2 grasped by a bare hand.

1 38. The hockey stick of claim 26, wherein the grip portion includes a guard portion at the one
2 end of the hilt.

1 39. The hockey stick of claim 26, wherein the grip portion includes a knob at one end of the
2 hilt.

1 40. A grip for attachment to a sport stick having a shaft, one end of the shaft having an
2 opening extending longitudinally into the shaft, the grip comprising:
3 a grip core with one or more grooves formed therein;
4 an elongated grip portion covering one end of the grip core and the one or more
5 grooves, the elongated grip portion having a hilt having a longitudinal dimension sized
6 for being grasped by a hand of a user along a longitudinal axis; and
7 an insertion portion adjacent to one end of the elongated grip portion, the insertion
8 portion being sized to provide close insertion into the opening at the one end of the shaft.

1 41. A sport stick, comprising:
2 a shaft having an opening at a first end, the opening extending longitudinally from
3 the first end into the shaft;
4 a grip having a grip core, an insertion portion and a grip portion, the grip core
5 having one or more grooves formed therein, the insertion portion being inserted into the
6 opening at the first end of the shaft, the grip portion covering one end of the grip core and
7 the one or more grooves and having a hilt with a longitudinal dimension sized for being
8 grasped by a hand of a user, the hilt having a curved surface along a length of the hilt that
9 conforms to a curvature of a palm of the hand.

1 42. A grip for attachment to a hockey stick having a shaft, one end of the shaft having an opening
2 extending longitudinally into the shaft, the grip comprising:
3 a grip core with one or more grooves formed therein;

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4 an elongated grip portion covering one end of the grip core and the one or more
5 grooves, the elongated grip portion having a hilt with a longitudinal dimension sized for being
6 grasped by a hand of a user and a guard portion located at the one end of the hilt; and

7 an insertion portion extending from one end of the grip core, the insertion portion
8 being sized to provide close insertion into the opening at the one end of the shaft, the guard
9 portion of the grip portion bordering the one end of the shaft when the insertion portion is
10 inserted into the opening of the shaft.